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ALL NEW

FIGHTIN' MARINES

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THEY ALMOST SHIPPED RAY CUSICK HOME FROM MARINE BOOT CAMP... HE WASN'T AS TOUGH AS MOST OF THE OTHERS ..AND HE WASN'T A VIOLENT MAN BY NATURE...

OFFF...

FINISH IT, MARTINEZ .. ONE GOOD RIGHT HAND'LL DO IT!

CUSICK'S HELPLESS!

THOP

NOT TOUGH ENOUGH!

WHEN HE FINISHED BOOT CAMP, MAJOR BARTLETT ASSIGNED PFC CUSICK TO THE SERGEANT MAJOR ..HE BECAME A... CLERK TYPIST...

1775

CUSICK'S DOING A GOOD JOB, MAJOR! THIS IS THE RIGHT SPOT FOR HIM...

D-5287

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HE WAS TRAINED TO BE A COMBAT MARINE .. BUT HE NEVER SCORED HIGHLY ON THE RIFLE RANGE...

LUCKY THAT'S NOT A JAP YOU'RE SHOOTIN' AT, BOOT!

11

ON MANEUVERS, P.F.C. CUSICK MADE A LOT OF MISTAKES....

MOVE IT... GET THE LEAD OUT!

IF WE HAD SIX MORE MARINES LIKE YOU, CUSICK.. I'D INVEST IN JAPANESE WAR BONDS!

GET CLEANED UP AND REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS, CUSICK! FROM NOW ON YOU STICK TO OFFICE WORK!

THEY SHIPPED OUT ON TROOP TRANSPORTS IN DECEMBER, 1942 .... DESTINATION HONOLULU!

WHEN HIS OUTFIT ATTACKED AT TARAWA, P.F.C. CUSICK WAS LEFT ABOARD THE ATTACK TRANSPORT....

CUSICK WAS KEPT BUSY.... TYPING CASUALTY REPORTS ..KNOWING EACH NAME AS HE TYPED IT.... A DEEP SADNESS GROWING IN HIS HEART...

YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE NOT IN THERE GETTIN' YOUR TAIL SHOT OFF, GYRENE!

LUCKY..I'D GIVE MY EYE TEETH TO BE A REAL MARINE... IN THERE GETTING MY TAIL SHOT OFF!

AT LAST THE INVASION OF TARAWA WAS OVER... CPL. CUSICK'S BATTALION GOT SOME REST..... REPLACEMENTS ARRIVED...

I GOT ANOTHER STRIPE.. AND FOR WHAT? I FEEL LIKE A DRAFT-DODGER OR A PACIFIST.. SOME DAY WHEN MY KIDS ASK ME WHAT I DID IN THE WAR, I'LL TELL THEM I FOUGHT A TYPEWRITER!

NEXT IT WAS SAIPAN ..ONCE MORE CPL. CUSICK WAS AT HIS TYPEWRITER AS THE HEAVILY LOADED MARINES IN THEIR COMBAT GEAR CLAMBERED DOWN THE ROPE NETS INTO THE WAITING LANDING BARGES JUST BEFORE DAWN!

HERE, CUSICK.. MAIL THIS TO MY WIFE IF I DON'T GET BACK!

SURE, SARGE! I WISH I WAS GOING IN WITH YOU GUYS!

DON'T LET ANYONE HEAR YA SAY THAT, KID! YA DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU'RE WELL OFF!

SAIPAN WAS TOUGH.. THE JAPS WERE WAITING FOR THEM.. THEIR MACHINE GUNS LINED THE BEACHES... A LOT OF U.S. MARINES DIED WITHOUT EVER REACHING DRY LAND!

4.

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

IT'S BAD, ISN'T IT, COLONEL?

BAD ENOUGH, CUSICK! PASS THE WORD... YOU AND EVERY MARINE LEFT ABOARD THIS BUCKET GET COMBAT GEAR.. WE'RE GOING IN TO REINFORCE THE BATTALION!

I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN COMBAT! I'M A COOK! I'LL GET KILLED FOR SURE!

YOU'RE A MARINE, COOKIE.. WE'VE GOT TO DO OUR BEST!

LT. COL. BARTLETT SURVEYED THE CLERKS, COOKS AND VARIOUS PERSONNEL ..THEY WEREN'T THE CREAM OF THE MARINE CROP.. BUT THEY WOULD HAVE TO DO! HE MADE CUSICK THE ACTING SQUAD LEADER SO...

WHEN THEY HIT THE BEACH, CPL. CUSICK LED THE WAY...

HIT THE GRIT!

GET UP, CUSICK... THE JAPS ARE SIX HUNDRED YARDS FROM HERE!

HUH? OH, YEAH! OKAY, MEN.. LET'S HIT 'EM!

CPL. CUSICK LED HIS REPLACEMENTS INTO THE FORWARD AREA.. FOR THE FIRST TIME HE HEARD GUN-FIRE CLOSEUP... HE SAW RICOCHETS RIP THE GROUND AROUND HIM.. HEAVY MORTAR SHELLS BURST NOT FAR AWAY....

JOIN THE FIRST PLATOON, CUSICK ..THEY'RE ON THE POINT.. AND KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!

HEADS UP, CUSICK! THAT GUN'S NOT AN ORNAMENT.. START FIRING AT JAPS!

CUSICK COULDN'T ALWAYS SEE A TARGET.. BUT HE FIRED INTO THEIR AREA.. SOMETIMES HE EVEN SAW ONE OF HIS BULLETS FIND ITS MARK!

THERE WERE NEARLY 27,000 JAPS ON SAIPAN WHEN THE ATTACK BEGAN.... AND THEY ALL SEEMED DETERMINED TO DIE!

CUSICK FOUGHT LIKE A MADMAN..AROUND HIM THE PILED UP BODIES OF THE JAPS..HE THREW HIS RIFLE ASIDE AND SEIZED A THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN...

WHEN IT WAS OVER..HE WOULD WEARILY MAKE HIS WAY BACK TO THE SHIP..UNAWARE THAT EVERYTHING HE'D DONE HAD BEEN NOTED AND WAS KNOWN..AND LATER IN AUSTRALIA, THE MEDALS WOULD COME..PROVING THAT HE HAD TURNED OUT TO BE A PRETTY TOUGH MARINE...

THE END

HUDKINS' CHICKENS

WHEN THE 3RD SQUAD, 1ST PLATOON, CHARLIE COMPANY, FIRST WENT INTO ACTION IN KOREA IN THE SPRING OF 1951, SGT. CHUCK HUDKINS WAS THE ONLY EXPERIENCED MARINE IN THE GROUP....AND HE DROVE THEM MERCILESSLY, HOLDING THEM IN THEIR POSITIONS WHEN THEIR INSTINCT WAS TO RUN LIKE RABBITS!

THEY'LL WIPE US OUT! I'M GE....

RRAT·TAT·TAT·

BACK IN THE FOXHOLE, YA CHICKEN-HEARTED CREEP!!

RA·T·TAT·TAT·TAT·TAT

I'LL **KILL** THE FIRST ONE OF YA WHO TRIES TA BUG OUT!

TZ'IIING

ZIING

D-5430

THEY STAYED IN THEIR FOXHOLES...THEY HELD THEIR GROUND....

LATER THEY ADMITED TO EACH OTHER THAT HUDKINS WAS RIGHT....

IF HUDKINS WASN'T BEHIND ME THIS MORNIN', I WOULD HAVE RUN LIKE A DOG! I'M GLAD NOW I DIDN'T !!

HUDKINS HAD GREEN MARINES ....HE'D LEARNED THE HARD WAY IN WORLD WAR II AND HE BELIEVED IN TEACHING THE SAME WAY!

DIG 'EM DEEPER, I SAID, AN' WHAT I SAY GOES!

SARGE, IF YOU WEREN'T WEARING THEM STRIPES, I'D STOMP YORE BUTT!

YOU JUST NAMED THE GAME, BOOT!

MY DADDY ALWAYS SAID NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK!

WHAAP

STANLEY

I'LL DO LIKE I SAID....I'LL STOMP HIM GOOD !!

BUT HUDKINS, WOBBLY AS HE WAS, RE-ACTED....HIS HEAVY COMBAT BOOT LASHED OUT...SMASHING THE BOOTS SHIN....

THUD

OWW!

SPLAT

....ANY OTHERS WANT A PIECE OF ME WHILE I GOT MY STRIPES OFF?

HUDKINS KEPT LEANING ON THEM.... SO MUCH SO THAT THE PLATOON LEADER, LT. MARK WOODSELL, SPOKE TO HIM ABOUT IT!

I'VE HEARD STORIES THAT YOU'RE UNNECESSARILY HARSH WITH YOUR SQUAD, SERGEANT! THOSE STRIPES DON'T ENTITLE YOU TO BE **BRUTAL** TO YOUR MEN!

LIEUTENANT, I'M TRYING TO TEACH 'EM TO BE **REAL** MARINES!!

I GOTTA TEACH 'EM QUICK AN' HARD OR THEY WILL BE **DEAD** MARINES!

HUDKINS NEVER SEEMED TO SLEEP.... WHENEVER ONE OF HIS SQUAD ON SENTRY DUTY WOULD DOZE OFF, HUDKINS ALWAYS KNEW AND....

T-THAT WASN'T FUNNY, SARGE!

SLEEPIN' ON DUTY AIN'T FUNNY EITHER, DUMMY! IT COULD GET YA **KILLED**!

...AND, ON ANOTHER NIGHT WHEN A MAN SLEPT ON GUARD DUTY...

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

BRRRRRRT-TTATTT

TH-THANKS SARGE!!

DON'T THANK ME, BOOT... TOMORROW I'LL HAVE YA ON EXTRA DUTY TO REMIND YOU TO STAY AWAKE!

THEY DIDN'T LIKE HIM... BUT THEY LEARNED TO DIG DEEP FOX-HOLES, KEEP THEIR WEAPONS CLEAN AND THEIR FEET DRY... THEY LEARNED THE SKILLS AND TECHNI-QUES A MARINE HAS TO KNOW TO SURVIVE IN THE CZ (COMBAT ZONE)....

THE MAN INVOLVED RE-FUSED TO NAME YOU AS HIS ASSAILANT, SERGEANT, BUT THE MEDICS SAY HE TREATED ONE OF YOUR MEN FOR LACERATIONS AND CONTUSIONS...

AND YOU HAD A SWOLLEN, LACERATED HAND! IN THE MEDIC'S OPINION, BOTH INJURIES ARE RELATED.

DON'T PUSSYFOOT AROUND, LIEUTENANT! WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO SAY!

I'M APPOINTING ANOTHER SQUAD LEADER, SERGEANT! FOR THE MOMENT, YOU'RE REASSIGNED TO THE SUPPLY SQUAD!

YES, SIR!

WHEN THE THIRD SQUAD GOT THE NEWS... AND SAW THEIR NEW SQUAD LEADER, THEY WERE STUNNED... AT FIRST THEY WERE GLAD....

DON'T BE SO HAPPY.... HUDKINS WASN'T ALL THAT BAD A LEADER!

THIS IS BETTER THAN HAVIN' HUDKINS BUGGIN' US TUH DIG DEEPER OR RUN AN AMMO CHECK OR SEND GUYS OUT FOR DRY SOCKS!

IS IT BETTER? I KNOW HAVIN' A DEEP FOXHOLE SAVED ME A COUPLE A' TIMES:...

I KNOW I'M DOWN IN AMMO AND WE COULD ALL USE GRENADES, C RATIONS, AN', YEAH, DRY SOCKS!

ONE OF HUDKINS' SQUAD MENTIONED IT TO SGT. MURRAY WHO JUST SMILED....

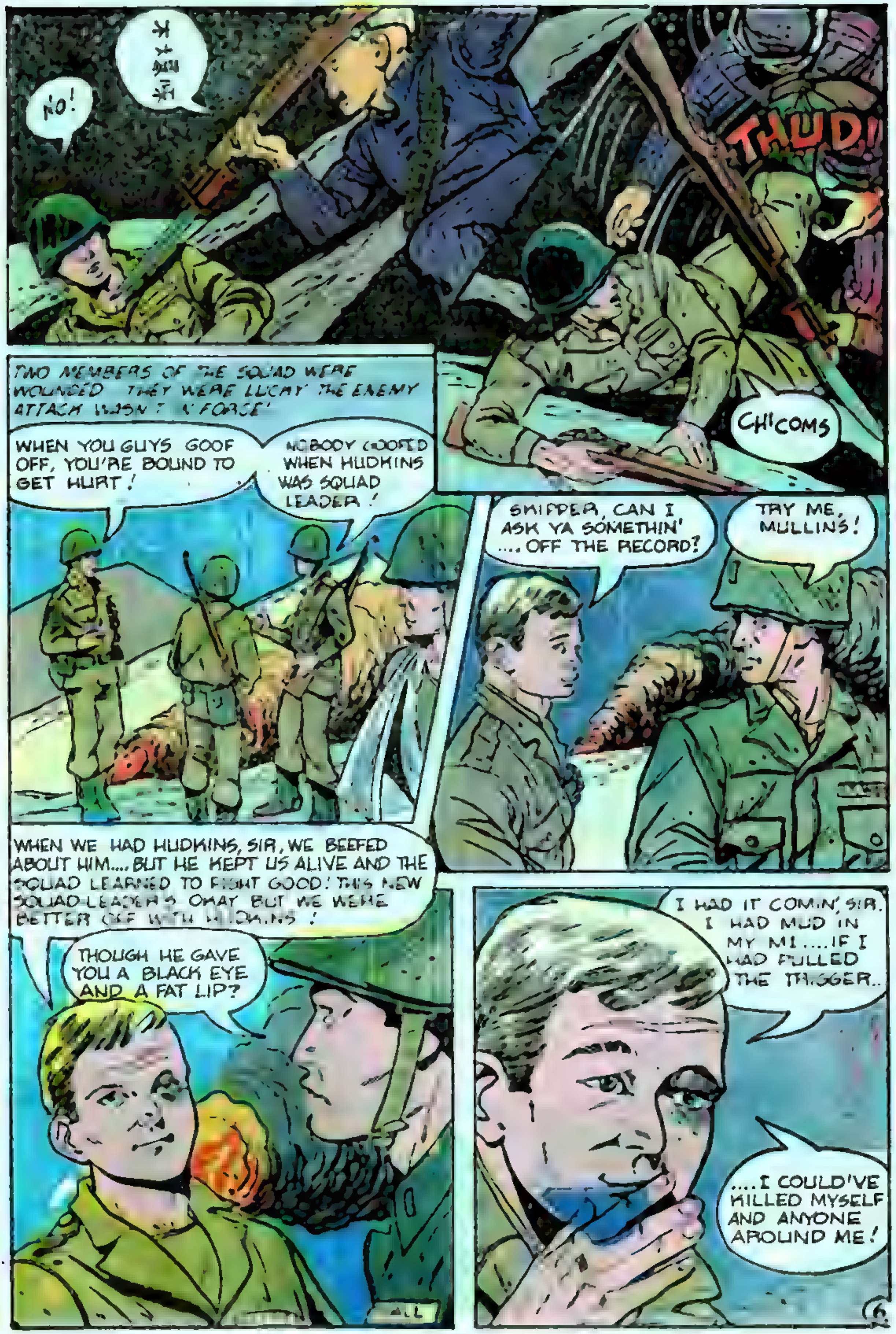
GOT WET SOCKS? WELL AIN'T THAT A SHAME? YOU GUYS GOTTA TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES...YOU'RE BIG BOYS NOW!!

I GOT TROUBLES OF MY OWN....I HAD A NICE, EASY RACKET IN SUPPLY TILL SOME DIMWIT TRANSFERRED ME UP HERE TO THE CZ!

THAT NIGHT....

THIS SQUAD LEADER JUST DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN, BUDDY!

YEAH! HUDKINS SORTA SPOILED US, I GUESS!


NO!
THUD!
CHI'COMS
TWO MEMBERS OF THE SQUAD WERE WOUNDED THEY WERE LUCKY THE ENEMY ATTACH WASN'T IN FORCE
WHEN YOU GUYS GOOF OFF, YOU'RE BOUND TO GET HURT!
NOBODY GOOFED WHEN HUDKINS WAS SQUAD LEADER!
SNIPPER, CAN I ASK YA SOMETHIN' .... OFF THE RECORD?
TRY ME, MULLINS!
WHEN WE HAD HUDKINS, SIR, WE BEEFED ABOUT HIM.... BUT HE KEPT US ALIVE AND THE SQUAD LEARNED TO FIGHT GOOD! THIS NEW SQUAD LEADER'S OKAY BUT WE WERE BETTER OFF WITH HUDKINS!
THOUGH HE GAVE YOU A BLACK EYE AND A FAT LIP?
I HAD IT COMIN', SIR. I HAD MUD IN MY M1.... IF I HAD PULLED THE TRIGGER..
....I COULD'VE KILLED MYSELF AND ANYONE AROUND ME!

BIG COMMIE BREAKTHROUGH .... THEY'RE HITTIN' HILL 236 ON THE NORTH SLOPE !

THAT'S CHARLIE COMPANY!! MY SQUAD WILL GET HIT HARD!

VROOOM

WATCH IT, HUDKINS!

HEY.... IT'S HUDKINS !

COVER FOR HIM... WE CAN'T LOSE HIM AGAIN !

VRROOOOM!

RAT-TAT-AT-TAT

TZINGING

TZINGING

SUDDENLY, THE 3RD SQUAD OPENED A HEAVY FIRE, GRENADES AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, ON THE COMMIES.. BEHIND THEM THE PLATOON CHARGED.... AND THE COMMIE ATTACK WAS HURLED BACK!

FORGET ABOUT THE SUPPLY ASSIGNMENT, HUDKINS.... YOU AND THE 3RD SQUAD BE-LONG TOGETHER !

DIG IT DEEP, BOOT!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, SQUAD LEADER!

THE END

CHAOS AT CRECY

The Battle of Crecy, fought on August 26, 1346, represents the peak efficiency of the longbow as a military weapon. The English army, commanded by Edward III (1327-77), was outnumbered 4 to 1. Yet, it routed and practically annihilated the powerful army of Philip VI of Valois. The perfect marksmanship of the English longbowmen maintained throughout the battle a superiority of fire of ten arrows against one from the crossbows of Philip's Genoese fighters. It was common for the expert English archers to have three arrows in the air at one time from the same bow. Not only did they have a higher rate of fire, but they greatly outranged Philip's soldiers.

The English arrows easily pierced the light armor of the French horsemen, upon whose charges Philip had relied to bring him ultimate victory. Although the cavalry made 16 attempts to break the English lines, not one attack was even partially successful. The battle lasted only a few hours. But, the English bowmen pumped volley after volley of arrows in the French forces until they were a struggling mass of wounded horse and foot soldiers trying to escape. This state of affairs allowed the English to massacre them. A fair picture of the deadliness of the bow in the hands of these skilled longbowmen can be seen from this fact: that of the 40,000 men in King Philip's original army, over 20,000 were casualties in one form or another. The English losses were listed as negligible — in the amount of 50 men.

We actually have a record of that battle. John Froissart, a chronicler, wrote about some of the episodes that took place in this battle. Four knights sent out by King Philip to reconnoitre reported the English in battle array.

"Sir, I would advise, for my part, that you halt your army here and quarter them for the night. On the morrow, you may draw up your army more at your ease, and may reconnoitre at leisure on what part it will be more advantageous to begin the attack. For, be assured, they will wait for you." The king commanded that should so be done. The two marshals rode, one toward the front, and the other to the rear, crying out, "Halt, banners in the name of God and St. Denis." Those that were at the front halted, but those behind said they would not halt until they were as forward as the front. When the front perceived the rear pressing on, they pushed forward; and neither the king nor the marshals could stop them. But, they marched without any order until they came in sight of their enemies.

As soon as the foremost rank saw them, they fell back at once in great disorder which alarmed those in the rear who thought they had been fighting. All the roads between Abbeville and Crecy were covered with common people — who when they would come within three leagues of their enemies, drew their swords, bawling out, "Kill, Kill." With them were many great lords that were eager to make show of their courage. There is no man, unless he had been present, that can imagine or describe truly the confusion of that day — especially the bad management and disorder of the French.

There were about fifteen thousand Genoese crossbowmen with their crossbows presented and began to shoot. The English archers then advanced one step forward and shot their arrows with such force and quickness that it seemed as if it snowed. When the Genoese felt these arrows, which pierced their arms, head, and through their armor; some of them cut the strings of their crossbows. Others flung them on the ground. All turned about and retreated quite discomfited. The French had a large body of some men — at - arms on horseback, richly dressed, to support the Genoese.

The English continued shooting as vigorously and quickly as before. Some of their arrows fell among the horsemen. Killing and wounding many, making them caper and fall among the Genoese. They were in such confusion they could never rally again. In the English army, there were some Cornish and Welshman on foot who had armed themselves with large knives. Advancing through the ranks of the men - at - arms and archers who made way for them, they came upon the French when they were in this danger; and falling upon earls, barons, knights, and squires, slew man.

When on the Saturday night the English heard no more hooting or shouting nor any more crying out to particular lords, they looked upon the field as their own. They made great fires and lighted torches because of the obscurity of the night. The English, during the night, made frequent thanksgivings to the Lord for the happy issue of the day."

So the longbow beat the crossbow. But, there was soon to come the day of gunpowder; and that would be another chapter in the history of warfare.

BOOT CAMP CHARLIE

WE JUST GOT THE WORD...TWO CHICOM DIVISIONS ARE MASSED JUST ACROSS HEARTBREAK RIDGE.... THEY'RE GONNA HIT US HARD PRETTY SOON.... BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA BACK UP!

WE'RE STAYIN' RIGHT HERE!

WE'RE ALL GONNA GET WIPED OUT THIS TIME!

D-6150

Dempsio 73

ABLE COMPANY WAS DUG IN ALONG THE HEARTBREAK RIDGE....CAPT. DUCKFOOT ACKERMAN WAS EVEN MORE TIRED THAN THE MARINES HE COMMANDED....THEY'D BEEN IN THE LINE FOR WEEKS....THEY WERE HUNGRY, DIRTY AND SICK OF HURTING AND BEING HURT BUT ACKER-MAN GAVE THEM THE WORD....

WHAT AM I DOIN' HERE? THE MEDICS TOLD ME I GOT A COUPLE BUSTED BONES ....IT'S TIME I WENT AN HAD 'EM FIXED!

THESE WERE EXHAUSTED MARINES....MORE THAN HALF OF ABLE COMPANY WERE DEAD OR WOUNDED....THOSE LEFT OF THE ORIGINAL UNIT WERE WALKING ZOMBIES! ONE OF THESE ZOMBIES STARTED WALKING....

HITEN! WHERE DO YA THINK YOU'RE GOIN'?

COME BACK HERE, HITEN!

THAT'S AN ORDER!

HERE THEY COME!

PLAY IT COOL! DON'T WASTE AMMO...COVER FOR EACH OTHER!

THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS SWARMED AROUND ABLE COMPANY....CAPT. ACKERMAN EARNED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS THAT DAY!

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT TWO PAGES

ABLE COMPANY TOOK A POUNDING.. ...BUT THEY SCATTERED A COUPLE HUNDRED COMMIES ALONG THE RIDGE AND FINALLY DROVE THEM OFF!

ABLE DID IT, HARRY! I DIDN'T THINK THEY COULD HACK IT IN THE SHAPE THEY WERE IN!

MOST OF THEM DID, SKIPPER...

....BUT CHARLIE HITEN DIDN'T! HE BUGGED OUT WHEN HE HEARD THE COMMIE BUGLES! I'M GONNA SHOVE A KNUCKLE SANDWICH DOWN HIS THROAT WHEN I CATCH UP WITH THAT YELLA RAT!

BUT CPL. HITEN HADN'T GONE FAR....THE MEDICS HAD HIM....AND HE WAS SHAKING SO BADLY THEY HAD TO HOLD HIM DOWN TO GIVE HIM A SEDATIVE!

HE'S GOT A SMASHED HAND BUT WHY'S HE SHAKING SO BAD, SIR?

NERVES, JOE! HE'S BEEN SHOT AT TOO OFTEN...

...AND SEEN TOO MANY OF HIS FRIENDS DIE! THEY'LL GIVE HIM SOME LEAVE IN TOKYO.... HE'LL BE BACK IN A MONTH... AND DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN!

Dempsey '53

AT A BASE HOSPITAL, CHARLIE HITEN WAS GRADUALLY BROUGHT BACK INTO THE HUMAN RACE....

COME ON, MARINE, YOU'RE BROODING AGAIN! LOOK AROUND.... THE OTHERS IN THIS WARD ARE HURT WORSE THAN YOU ARE!

DON'T YOU LIKE ANY OF US, CHARLIE HITEN?

YOU'RE OKAY, MA'AM.

LAST I REMEMBER, THE CHICOMS HIT ABLE COMPANY AT-- ***HEART-BREAK RIDGE!*** I PULL A BLANK AFTER THAT! HOW'D ABLE MAKE OUT?

A MARINE DOCTOR WAS TOLD WHAT HE ASKED AND LATER...

...AND I'M TOLD AFTER YOU WALKED AWAY ABLE COMPANY THREW BACK A CHINESE BATTALION!

GREAT! THE SKIPPER WILL COURT-MARTIAL ME AS SOON AS I'M RETURNED TO DUTY!

NO COURT-MARTIAL, CORPORAL.... YOU'VE BEEN DIAGNOSED AS A SEVERE COMBAT-FATIGUE CASE! THERE'S NO STIGMA AGAINST YOUR NAME.... YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD MARINE!

HIS HAND WAS IN A CAST FIVE WEEKS LATER WHEN HE WAS GIVEN R&R (REST AND RECREATION) LEAVE IN JAPAN.

HITEN!

HIYA, SARGE.

BUG OUT, CHARLIE. I OUGHTA BEAT YOU TO A PULP!

GO AHEAD IF IT'LL HELP ANY, SARGE!

LOUIE IS DEAD....JIMSON LOST AN ARM... IRISH JOHN IS DEAD! THEY'RE DEAD.... AND YOU'RE HERE HAVIN' A BALL!

I KNOW, SARGE! I WISH I STAYED AND DIED WITH THEM!

WELL, YOU AIN'T.... I HEAR YOU'RE COMIN' BACK TO ABLE COMPANY...AND I'M GONNA MAKE YA PAY FOR BUGGIN' OUT!

SEVEN WEEKS AFTER HE LEFT ABLE COMPANY ON HEARTBREAK RIDGE, CPL. HITEN WAS RETURNED TO ACTIVE DUTY....

CPL. HITEN REPORTING FOR DUTY, CAPTAIN.

MP

YOU GOT NERVE TO COME BACK, CHARLIE. YOU COULD'VE ASKED FOR A TRANSFER.

THIS IS WHERE I BELONG, SIR! I CAN TAKE WHATEVER I'VE GOT COMING!

MAYBE YOU CAN, HITEN....

....YOU WERE A GOOD MARINE ONCE!

THE TOP SERGEANT LEANED ON HITEN HARD....THEY WERE GOING BACK INTO THE COMBAT ZONE AND IF HITEN WAS GOING TO CRACK HE WANTED TO KNOW NOW!

ONE TIME, I'D HAVE RATHER HAD CHARLIE HITEN BESIDE ME THAN ANY MARINE IN THE OUTFIT! HE MIGHT BE SICK....HE AIN'T CHICKEN!

I HATE YOUR GUTS, HITEN!

HITEN'S REAL CHICKEN!

I HAD THAT COMIN', SARGE...JUST DON'T DO IT AGAIN!

WHY? WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF I DO?

I'LL KNOCK YOU OUT FROM BEHIND YOUR STRIPES, HARRY....AND YOU KNOW I'M THE ONE TO DO IT!

I KNOW, CHARLIE....

WE LOST A LOT OF GOOD MEN ON HEARTBREAK RIDGE, HITEN! YOU ARE GOIN' TO BE ACTIN' SQUAD LEADER, SECOND SQUAD, FIRST PLATOON! YOU MAN ENOUGH FOR THE JOB?

IF THERE'S NO ONE ELSE, I'LL HAVE TO DO IT, SARGE!

MY NAME IS HITEN....I'M THE ACTIN' SQUAD LEADER FROM NOW ON! WHATEVER YOU GUYS HAVE HEARD ABOUT ME, FORGET IT... WE'RE ALL MAKIN' A FRESH START TOGETHER!

THE 4TH MARINE BATTALION WENT BACK INTO THE LINE...ABLE COMPANY OCCUPIED A POSITION ON A HILL ABOVE A ROAD .. JUNCTION!

ABLE COMPANY HAS TO HOLD THIS RIDGE! THIS PLATOON, ESPECIALLY YOUR SQUAD, HITEN, HAS TO KEEP THE CHICOMS FROM TAKING THE HIGH GROUND!

WE'LL DO OUR JOB, SKIPPER!

I HOPE HITEN DOESN'T BUG OUT ON US THE WAY HE DID AT *HEART-BREAK RIDGE!*

WHERE'S THE SQUAD LEADER? IS HE STILL HERE?

I'D LOVE TO GIVE THOSE MEN A FAT LIP!

THE CHICOMS HIT THAT NIGHT.....HITEN STEADIED THEM, PUMPING ROUNDS INTO THE LOOMING SHADOWS IN THE DARKNESS....

THEY'RE INSIDE THE PERIMETER!

STAY IN YOUR FOXHOLES... AIM YOUR FIRE....

THEN...

YOUR SQUAD DID GREAT, HITEN! CHECK THEM...MAKE SURE THEY GOT AMMO AND GRENADES...THE GOOKS WILL HIT US AGAIN!

OKAY, HARRY.

THIS FIFTY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE IN KOREA RIGHT NOW! I'VE GOT BACK-UP GUNNERS AND I'LL BE CLOSE BY IF YUH NEED ME!

GO SCROUNGE SOME M1 AMMO AT THE COMMAND POST, RYAN! FERUCCI IS BRINGIN' UP MORE GRENADES!

I THINK WE WIPED OUT HALF A COMPANY IN THE LAST ATTACK, SQUAD LEADER!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

THE COMMIES WANTED THAT HIGH GROUND....ATTACK AFTER ATTACK WAS THROWN AGAINST HITEN'S SQUAD .... THEY WERE THROWN BACK!

ABOUT THREE A.M., HITEN HAD TO TAKE A LOADER'S PLACE...THEN, THE GUNNER WAS KILLED AND...

RATTA-TAT-TAT

I GOTTA DO IT MYSELF NOW!

AND FOR THE NEXT FOUR HOURS...

RATTA-TAT

RATTA-ATAH-TAC...

I'VE BEEN DOIN' MY OWN LOADIN'...I DUNNO HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN HOLD 'EM OFF!

THEN...

HOLD YOUR FIRE, HITEN! THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO SHOOT AT!

I DIDN'T BUG OUT, SKIPPER!

I KNOW, CHARLIE...AND NOW I KNOW YOU DIDN'T BUG OUT LAST TIME EITHER! YOU'RE MY KIND OF MARINE!

END